



Town of Arlington, Massachusetts
730 Massachusetts Ave., Arlington, MA 02476
Phone: 781-316-3000

webmaster@town.arlington.ma.us

Finance Committee Minutes 02-11-04

ARLINGTON FINANCE COMMITTEE
 MINUTES OF MEETING
 7:30 PM O'NEILL ROOM, COMMUNITY SAFETY BUILDING
 2/11/04

ATTENDEES:

McGaffigan*	Feinleib	O'Riordan*	O'Neill*	Mahoney*
DeCoursey*	Connors*	Simmons*	Morrisette*	
Tosti*	Foskett*	Deyst*	Ronan*	
Piandes	Franclemont*	Jones	Olsen*	
DuBois*	Howard*	Fanning*		Kneeland*

* Indicates present

VISITORS: Acting Town Manager Nancy Galkowski, School Committee Member Paul Schlichtman, Jane Connor, Robin Schoenthaler

MINUTES of 2/9/04 accepted as corrected. Unanimous.

STUART 3 MUNICIPAL BUILDING TRUST FUND TRANSFER: Galkowski proposed a transfer from this fund to pay for repairs to the library after the sprinkler system pipes burst and replacement of the damaged books. Her preliminary cost estimate is \$61k. She requested a transfer of \$75k. The insurance deductible is \$100k. She also discussed briefly her Annual Town Meeting proposal to transfer funds from this Trust Fund to the Stabilization Fund.

VOTED to authorize a transfer of up to \$100k from the Municipal Bldg Trust Fund to pay for the recent library damage. Unanimous.

STUART 4 CAPITAL BUDGET PEIRCE FIELD: Galkowski proposed approving a \$250k FY05 Capital Budget item to pay the Town's share of the Peirce Field culvert replacement. She believes this is necessary in order to start the cleanup on time since the industrial partners might want to be assured that the Town's funding is in place before committing their own funds. If the action were delayed until the Annual Town Mtg, the vote might not be valid until late June.

VOTED to authorize bonding \$250k for the Peirce Field culvert. Unanimous.

STUART 5 COLLECTIVE BARGAINING RANKING OFFICERS: Galkowski provided a recommended vote that would approve a 3% pay raise starting 7/1/02. There were no other changes to the former contract. The cost in both FY03 & FY04 will be paid from moneys set aside for collective bargaining by Town Meeting. This contract will expire 6/30/03 as do all other union contracts. Galkowski hopes this will strengthen the Town's position for getting all unions to accept a larger health insurance copay.

VOTED favorable action on the vote provided by the Acting Town Manager. Unanimous.

STUART 6 INTERNET INFORMATION OFFICER: Schlichtman supported by Schoenthaler & Connor stated that the new position of Webmaster is serving the Town poorly because it is exclusively focused on the technical details of the web site. They stated that the postings that had been provided by a contractor before the new position was filled are not being done now. They believe this thwarts the intention of Town Mtg. They suggest the position be eliminated and a new position be established in a department which focuses on communication. There was extensive discussion. Foskett reviewed his

service on the interview committee for the webmaster. Members seem to feel that if there is a problem, the suggested solution is not a good one.

VOTED no action. Unanimous.

SYMMES DECISION: Foskett stated that the process was a good one. EA Fish met all the advisory committee's requirements. He believes there is a good chance that no public borrowing will be required to carry out this development.

SCHOOL BUDGET: Fanning provided copies of the school budget. He pointed out that for the first time the grants are included for information showing where they will be applied assuming they are renewed. The budget has increased 8% which is intended to make up for last year's reductions. The budget has a collective bargaining reserve. Much of the grant money is from the Federal "No Child Left Behind" bill which reauthorized the existing program but added extensive performance requirements. He reported that the Superintendent is planning to hire teachers at step 5 with MAs to avoid the cost of in service schooling to meet the requirement that all teachers hold an MA by 2009.

COMMITTEE: Feinleib has resigned. He has been appointed to a professorship at the University of Tokyo and will live there full time. Next mtg 2/18/04 will focus on budgets.
For more info go to <http://www.arlingtonfincom.com/>

RESERVE FUND BALANCE \$398,000

cc Selectmen
FinCom Members
Acting Town Manager

Peter B Howard
Library file
Town Web Site

Secretary 2/11/04